

Having regard to the fact that the French fleet may be delivered to the German government and that therefore, as a result of this and other factors, western civilization on this hemisphere faces immediately a situation of dire peril, what action is this government taking to protect Britain's position?

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): I will leave it to my hon. friend the Minister of Munitions and Supply (Mr. Howe) to reply to the part of my hon. friend's question which refers to the manufacture by the Ford company of aeroplane engines.

As to the latter part of the question, it involves the whole defence effort of the country and could not very well be replied to offhand.

Hon. C. D. HOWE (Minister of Munitions and Supply): The facts of the situation are, I think, that the committee recently appointed by the President of the United States to obtain production of war materials in the United States were negotiating with the Ford company for an order on behalf of the United States government, combined with an order for the British government placed by the Anglo-French commission in New York. The situation appears to be that the transaction has collapsed.

As far as Canada is concerned, the Ford motor company, of course, is a public company with wide ownership and it has been doing splendid work in the production of war materials.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): I am not speaking of the Ford Motor Company of Canada.

Mr. HOWE: Well, I assumed that the Canadian interests of Mr. Henry Ford would be through the company in Canada in which he is a shareholder.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): I had entire reference to the United States company, which is not, as I understand it, publicly owned. I had no reference to the Ford Motor Company of Canada. I should like to have that made absolutely clear.

BRITISH CHILDREN

ARRANGEMENTS AND FACILITIES FOR EXTENDING HOSPITALITY OF CANADA FOR DURATION OF WAR

On the orders of the day:

Mr. DOUGLAS G. ROSS (St. Paul's): I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Mines and Resources (Mr. Crerar) of which I have given him notice. My question is based on an appeal over the radio by Mr.

J. B. Priestley from England, some little time ago, to which I listened, in which he stated that his wish and the wish of people over there was to be able to evacuate about a million children from Great Britain. It is based also upon a telegram which I have received from Toronto. I crave the permission of the house to read the telegram in order to make my question clear:

Douglas G. Ross, M.P.,
Ottawa, Ont.

Undersigned deeply disappointed to learn from radio sources Great Britain that evacuees to be restricted to relatively small numbers. If this due lack of facilities Canada urge immediate reconsideration proposed bases of handling here in belief that mass evacuation imperative from military as well as humanitarian point of view. The five undersigned officers of this company personally offer immediately two houses one in Toronto, one in Ancaster and will undertake to equip and maintain in each house mother and help. Undersigned as responsible citizens undertake personal responsibility in securing proper and qualified persons to manage these houses. Facilities believed to be adequate for housing twenty-five children. Purpose this wire to emphasize that present emergency involves mass evacuation and that previously well prepared plans now inadequate. Undersigned only officers present at discussion others no doubt eager cooperate. Please wire reply care Manufacturers Life.

A. Mackenzie,
Assistant General Manager,
C. L. Holmes, Actuary,
R. E. Dowsett, Secretary,
S. M. Thompson, Treasurer,
Manufacturers Life Insurance
Company

I should like to ask the minister:

1. Whether the evacuees from Great Britain are to be restricted to a relatively small number, and, if so, what number?
2. Is this due to lack of facilities in Canada?
3. What arrangements are made for the payment of passage from Great Britain?
4. What arrangements can be made with respect to those people in England who wish to pay for the support of their children while here?
5. What restrictions, if any, are being placed on the permission given for these children to come to Canada, by the government of Canada?

Would the minister care to make a statement?

Hon. T. A. CRERAR (Minister of Mines and Resources): My hon. friend's question is based apparently upon a statement by Mr. Priestley in Great Britain some time ago in which he expressed the wish that one million children could be evacuated. I know nothing of this, but I assume it was merely a statement of Mr. Priestley's own views on the